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ABSTRACT

This report provides an analysis of student performance, in the areas of student persistence, withdrawal, and achievement, in transfer and occupational courses offered by Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) at Graham Correctional Center (GCC). First, background material provides information on LLCC's teaching system at GCC which began in 1981 and in which the students were allowed to register for a course, progress through that class, withdraw or complete that class, and then enroll in new courses all within the same length of time as the traditional college semester. Next, charts present student headcount by program and by term for transfer and occupational students for fall 1982 through fall 1983; the hours generated by program and by term for fall 1982 through fall 1983; the enrollment patterns within GCC by program and by term for fall 1982 through fall 1984 including the number of students enrolled and the rate of change by semester; rates of student persistence by program and by term; student withdrawal rates by course hours; complete student withdrawals by term and by program for fall 1982 through fall 1984; and student completion rates and mean grade point average by term and by program for fall 1982 through fall 1984.

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AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENT ACTIVITY
AT GRAHAM CORRECTIONAL CENTER
REPORT #102

James E. Russell
Dear:

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS, RECORDS & RESEARCH
LINCOLN LAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Springfield, Illinois

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On January 15, 1981, Lincoln Land Community College began offering courses at Graham Correctional Center in Hillsboro, Illinois. Since that time, we have collected information about Graham students to learn more about their academic progress.

This report is an analysis of information from Fall, 1982 through Fall, 1983 formulated on a descriptive, rather than comparative basis, and does not attempt to compare incarcerated students at Graham with free-world students at Lincoln Land Community College. This study does, however, present information pertaining to persistence, withdrawal, and academic achievement of those Graham students.

Registration at Graham Correctional Center was our first attempt at a variable registration system. Students were allowed to register for a course, progress through that particular class, withdraw or complete the class, and then enroll in new courses all within approximately the same length of time as our traditional semester.

Each course section was considered unique with opening, midterm, and ending dates calculated on the length of the course and the beginning date. Students could enroll and complete many individual classes within an existing term using this method.

Information was collected by tracking students from July 26, 1982, through December 23, 1983. The July 26 date included all students enrolled in classes that had midterm dates on or after August 21, 1982. The December 23, 1983, date included all students that were enrolled in

classes that had midterms on or before December 23, 1983.

Transfer curriculum classes at Graham were offered on the module system (eight weeks) and were relatively easy to analyze. The occupational curriculum classes, however, ranged in length from seven days to 57.5 days. Occupational classes were grouped into clusters by midterm and ending dates that approximate our semester start and end dates for comparison with the transfer courses.

Students were counted when they made an initial registration. All subsequent registrations were counted as adds and while the student count remained unduplicated the hours generated were accumulated.

A stop date was picked that coincided with the ending semester date. Any student that was currently-enrolled in a class that had a midterm date on or before the ending semester date was counted in that semester. If the midterm occurred after the semester ending date, the student was counted in the following semester.

Chart I represents student headcount by program by term. Please note that in the Spring, Summer and Fall, 1983 terms some students were considered to be enrolled in both occupational and transfer programs concurrently. These students initially registered in transfer courses and then subsequently registered, within the same term in occupational courses.

CHART I

Student headcount - by Program by Term

<u>Term</u>	<u>Transfer</u>	<u>Occupational</u>	<u>Transfer and Occupational</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fall 1982	112	125	0	237
Spring 1983	95	165	3	263
Summer 1983	69	78	1	148
Fall 1983	<u>124</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>260</u>
Total (Duplicated)	400	503	5	908
Fall 1982				
Fall 1983	284	334	3	621
(Unduplicated)				

Students reported in Chart I are registrants counted on the first day of classes. Due to the varying length of the occupational classes, we felt that a first day count was more reflective of all programs.

The transfer programs at Graham were constructed on the module system, while the occupational classes are on a variable system. This report counts initial registrations within that same semester period as adds. Multiple student enrollments within one semester are unduplicated.

CHART II

Hours Generated - by Program by Term

<u>Term</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u># Students</u>	<u>Hours Attempted</u>	<u>Hours Earned</u>	<u>Ratio of Hrs Earned/Student</u>
Fall 1982	Transfer	112	1184	902	8.05/1
Fall 1982	Occupational	125	1224	1086	8.68/1
Spring 1983	Transfer	96	985	665	7.01/1
Spring 1983	Occupational	167	1494	1155	6.9/1
Summer 1983	Transfer	70	529	419	5.98/1
Summer 1983	Occupational	78	602	462	5.92/1
Fall 1983	Transfer	125	1256	1001	8.0/1
Fall 1983	Occupational	135	1414	1099	8.14/1

Students enrolled concurrently in both occupational and transfer courses are included in the individual program totals where 50% or more of the hours enrolled occur in either a transfer or occupational program. Those students shown as concurrent transfer and occupational enrollees have been separated into the respective programs for comparison.

CHART III

Enrollment Patterns Within Graham - by Program by Term

<u>Term</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u># of Students Enrolled Total</u>	<u>Rate of Change</u>
Fall 1982	Transfer	112	
Spring 1983	Transfer	95	-15.1
Summer 1983	Transfer	69	-27.3
Fall 1983	Transfer	124	+79.7
Fall 1982	Occupational	125	
Spring 1983	Occupational	165	+32.0
Summer 1983	Occupational	78	-52.7
Fall 1983	Occupational	135	+73.0
Fall 1983	Trans/Occup.	-0-	
Spring 1983	Trans/Occup.	3	+300.0
Summer 1983	Trans/Occup.	1	-66.6
Fall 1984	Trans/Occup.	1	0

CHART IV

Student Persistence - by Program by Term

<u>Program</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u># of Students Total</u>	<u># of Returning Students</u>	<u>Rate of Persistence</u>
Transfer	Fall 1982	112		
Transfer	Spring 1983	95	39	34.8
Transfer	Summer 1983	69	35	50.8
Transfer	Fall 1983	124	44	63.7
Occupational	Fall 1982	125		
Occupational	Spring 1983	165	62	39.6
Occupational	Summer 1983	78	51	30.9
Occupational	Fall 1983	135	38	41.0
Trans/Occup.	Fall 1982	0		
Trans/Occup.	Spring 1983	3	0	0
Trans/Occup.	Summer 1983	1	0	0
Trans/Occup.	Fall 1983	1	0	0

Chart IV represents student persistence at Graham. Persistence is measured by calculating the number of students that enrolled in a given semester and then enrolled in the following semester. Persistence is only measured by semesters and not over the length of the study.

CHART V

Course Withdrawal Rate

Term	Program	Withdrawals						Total # Withdrawals	Total # Students Withdrawing	Withdrawals/ Student
		1 hr	2 hrs	3 hrs	4 hrs	5 hrs	6 hrs			
Fall '82	Transfer		1	69	17	1		88	42	2.09/1
Fall '82	Occupational		1	29	6	5		41	24	1.70/1
Total			2	98	23	6		129	66	1.95/1
Spring '83				93	9	1		103	53	1.94/1
Spring '83			2	91	8	6		107	59	1.81/1
Total			2	184	17	7		210	112	1.87/1
Summer '83				18	14			32	20	1.60/1
Summer '83				34	2	6		42	25	1.68/1
Total				52	16	6		74	45	1.64/1
Fall '83			1	79	4			84	41	2.04/1
Fall '83			4	79		14		97	50	1.94/1
Total			5	158	4	14		181	91	1.98/1

Chart V indicates the withdrawal rate by course hours. The totals are not consistent with the opening and completion counts due to the fact that students have the ability to add courses throughout the semester.

Caution should be used when analyzing this information. The constant change of the student population at Graham due to inter-prison transfers, early release, and additional sentencing has tremendous impact on the withdrawal rates. Any or all of these withdrawals could have been mandatory and therefore not reflective of course content, instructor rapport, etc..

CHART VI

Complete Withdrawals - by Term by Program

<u>Term</u>	<u>Transfer</u>	<u>Occupational</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fall '82	14	9	23
Spring '83	27	38	65
Summer '83	14	22	36
Fall '84	<u>23</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>48</u>
Total	78	94	172

CHART VII

<u>Term</u>	<u>Transfer</u>	<u>Occupational</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fall '83	8	13	21
Spring '83	6	14	20
Summer '83	2	1	3
Fall '84	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>
Total	21	33	54

Total unduplicated students on academic probation - 48

CHART VIII

<u>Term</u>	<u>Transfer</u>	<u>Occupational</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fall '83	4 (AGE)*	21 (Cert.) 1 (AGE)*	26
Spring '83	3 (AGE)*	32 (Certificate)	35
Summer '83	1 (AGE)	11 (Certificate)	12
Fall '84	<u>-0-</u>	<u>21 (Certificate)</u>	<u>21</u>
Total	8	86	94

*Associate in General Education

CHART IX

Completion Rate and Mean GPA - by Term by Program

<u>Term</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Initial Registration</u>	<u>Completions</u>	<u>Rate of Completion</u>	<u>Mean GPA</u>
Fall '82	Transfer	112	91	81.2	2.95
Fall '82	Occupational	125	105	84.0	2.52
Spring '83	Transfer	95	70	73.6	2.81
Spring '83	Occupational	165	121	73.3	2.65
Summer '83	Transfer	69	58	84.0	3.08
Summer '83	Occupational	78	60	76.9	2.68
Fall '83	Transfer	124	97	78.2	2.92
Fall '83	Occupational	135	104	77.0	2.68

Weighted Mean GPA all Programs all Terms - 2.75

The rates of completion are determined by the opening and ending totals and do not take into consideration the number of students enrolling after the opening date of the semester.